SPARK GAP

Vol. 42, Issue 2, February 2025 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Remember the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is meeting at the Johnson County REMC Community room at 8:00AM. The Johnson County REMC is located at 750 International Drive in Franklin. You do not have to be a member to attend meetings and you are also encouraged to bring friend with you.

Hope to see you all this Saturday morning.

CLUB DUES FOR 2025

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2025.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays for the month of February:

ND9C --- Steve Curtis
N9SIU --- Bob LaGrange
K9THR --- Ron Schuetz
K9DY --- Steve Carmean
KD9YON --- Tim Piscitelli
W9OQ --- Chris Read
KD9EDP --- Mike Smith

Celebrating President George Washington's Birthday

President George Washington's 293rd birthday will be celebrated by the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club (MVARC), K4US, Alexandria, Virginia, on February 15 , 2025 from 1500Z - 2000Z and on February 16 from 1500Z - 1600Z. Club members will be operating from the Mount Vernon greenhouse on the original grounds of the former plantation of George Washington and his wife, Martha. Frequencies include 7.042, 7.242, 14.042, and 14.242 MHz. QSL cards and additional information are available by contacting the MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307.

The MVARC is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Weather Ops-ervations

by KC9NJM

I am frequently asked for good resources to learn more about the wonderful world of weather and I almost always start by referring people to “JetStream, the National Weather Service Online Weather School.” Located on the web at https://www.noaa.gov/jetstream, this invaluable site is packed with easy to understand information arranged by topic, as well as prepared learning lessons. When using the site it is not necessary to follow or work through the material in a linear fashion, but rather in any manner that suits your style of learning. If the amount of information looks overwhelming and you are not sure where to begin the JetStream staff suggests that you start by going to the Topic Matrix. There you are able to choose any topic or lesson from the list, go directly to it, read its narrative, and follow its links.

As we approach the mid-point of February, we know that Indiana’s typical severe weather season is not too far away. So, for example, if you wanted to learn more about thunderstorms and how they develop you could go to the JetStream site, locate the page(s) about Thunderstorms and work through the material on your own schedule and at your own pace. Similarly, if you need a refresher on Tornadoes, the information is close at hand.

With some chilly days still ahead of us before we feel the warmth of spring, I would encourage you to jump online and get caught in the “JetStream.” I think you are going to find it to be a fascinating ride.

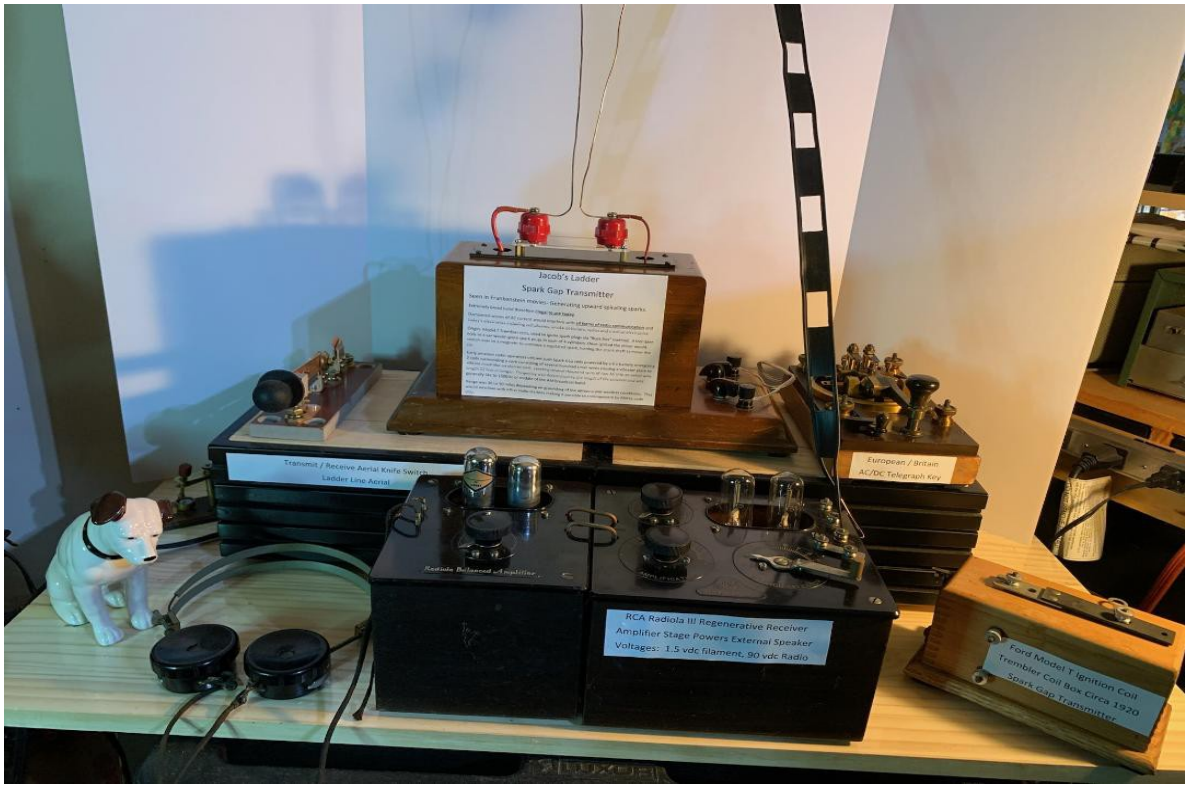
Resource: NOAA JetStream

More Facts About 1920's Era

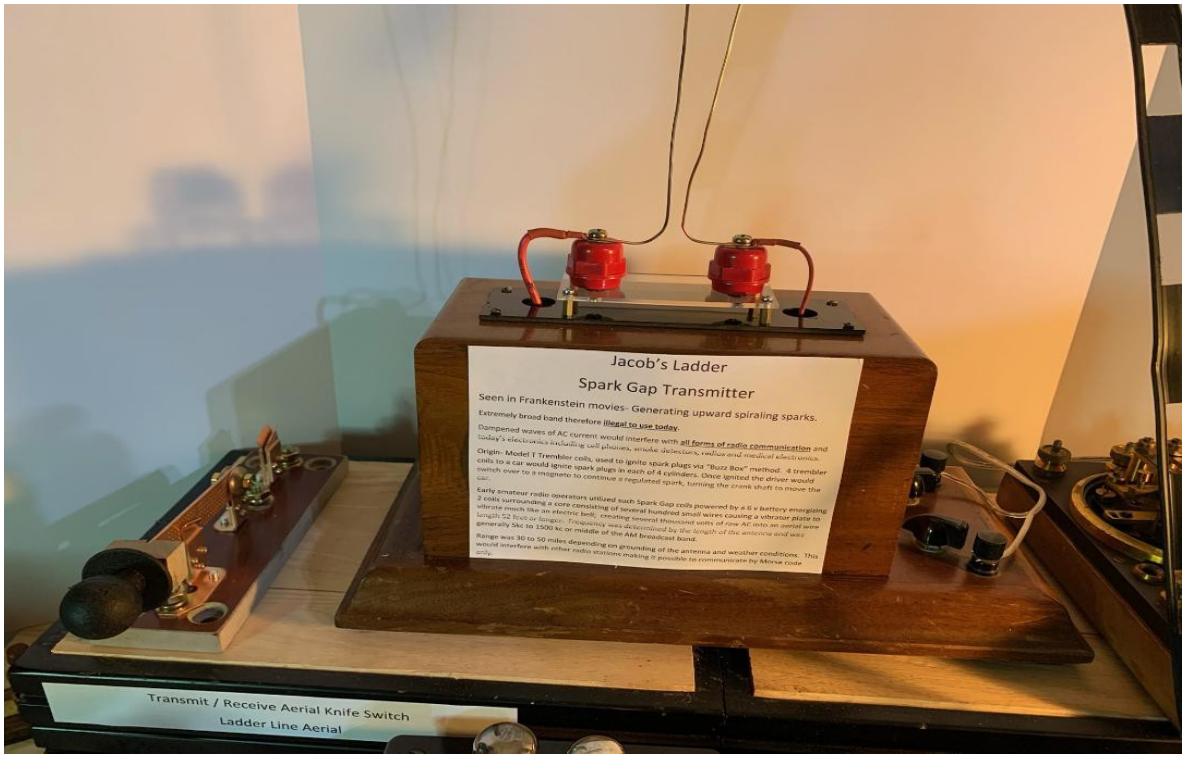
by Art WB9CHR

1. Model T Ford was the premium car at $850, known as "Tin Lizzy".
2. Horses and Buggies were still a mode of transportation.
3. Only about 20% of Indiana roads and highways were paved.
4. Many bridges were single lane wooden structures.
5. Most homes had "out houses" instead of indoor plumbing.
6. There was no air mail or overnight mail service.
7. Opiates were over the counter medicines.
8. Pharmacies sold guns, pistols, rifles and "Thompson" machine guns.
   - Dillinger in 1920 was fined $11.00 Indianapolis for speeding.
   - 1924 held up Mooresville grocer- Caught convicted served 9 years.
   - Irvington Pharmacy he stole Tommy gun used in the pharmacy hold up.
9. Doctors used leaches for infections.
10. People were pushing for alcohol ban- Prohibition began
    - The Eighteenth Amendment- January 17, 1920 to December 5, 1933.
    - Illegalized the manufacture, transportation and sale of Alcohol.
    - Passed by Congress in 1917.
    - December 5, 1933 ended prohibition with the 21st Amendment.
    - - State of Maryland said no to prohibition.
    - Volstead Act allowed private consumption and the religious use of wine.
    - 21st Amendment was the only amendment that repealed a former amendment to the Constitution.
    - Act was to provide pure grain for the WW1 war effort.
    - By 1925 there were 30,000to 100,000 speak easy clubs in New York City.
11. Women stopped wearing corsets and replaced them with girdles.
12. Parents facilitated marriage unions.
13. Americans didn't have a national anthem until 1931.
14. Child labor was not regulated by Federal Law.
15. Women's Right to Vote 19th Amendment passed June 7, 1919, Ratified August 18, 1920.
16. World War 1 – By 1917 Congress ordered all amateur radio operators to cease operation and dismantle their equipment. The Amateur Radio Service restarted on October 1, 1919.

Pictures by Art – WB9CHR


Jacob's Ladder
Spark Gap Transmitter
Transmit / Receive Aerial Knife Switch
Ladder Line Aerial
European / Britain
AC/DC Telegraph Key
RCA Radiola III Regenerative Receiver
Amplifier Stage Powers External Speaker
Voltages: 1.5 vdc filament, 90 vdc Radio
Ford Model T Ignition Coil
Trembler Coil Box Circa 1920
Spark Gap Transmitter

1920's Radio Receiver and Transmitter and Nipper Listening to his Masters Voice.


Jacob's Ladder
Spark Gap Transmitter
Seen in Frankenstein movies- Generating upward spiraling sparks.
Extremely broad band therefore illegal to use today.
Transmit / Receive Aerial Knife Switch
Ladder Line Aerial

Jacob's Ladder and Spark Gap Transmitter

1920's RCA Regenerative Receiver

Power Level Meter

Training the Next Generation of Net Controllers

ARRL News February 2025

Amateur radio operators are known for their desire and unique ability to provide public service through communications. Whether activated for a severe weather event or a local event such as a marathon or bike ride, the utility value and versatility of the Amateur Radio Service is enjoyed by communities around the country. One critical aspect of coordinating the communications is the role of net controller. These key volunteers bring order to chaos and flow to information. It is a specialized skill that requires development, practice, and training.

On February 1, Connecticut volunteers in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) held a training session. The session drew dozens of radio amateurs from around the state to a packed room inside the Newington Volunteer Fire Department. The half-day course, led by ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Douglas Sharafanowich, WA1SFH, was dynamic and participatory.

Georg Papp, K1YBO, is a controller and Assistant Net Manager for the Western Connecticut (WESCONN) Traffic Net, a part of the ARRL® National Traffic System® (NTS®). It serves to flow messages into, out of, and throughout the state and to serve as a training net. He was excited to see the high number of attendees. “We always encourage new people to step up to volunteer for the net, and this helps provide a pathway for them,” he said.

In the training, Sharafanowich highlighted examples of needing a robust group of trained Net Control Station (NCS) operators. “When a ‘Black Sky’ event takes place, it is rarely limited to an 8-hour shift. We will need trained NCS operators not only to provide for initial shift coverage, but also, we will need relief NCS operators to cover following shifts,” he said.

If you’d like to get involved as a net control station, talk with your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or District Emergency Coordinator to express interest. You may also find NTS net resources in your area at nts2.arrl.org.

If you are interested in being a Net Control Station (NCS) please contact Jacki, KI6QOG.

2025 Hamfests List

02/22/2025 - Cabin Fever Hamfest

- `NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE!`

- Location: La Porte, IN
- Address: LaPORTE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
- 2581 W. State Rd. 2
- La Porte, IN 46350
- Talk-in: 146.61- 131.8 PL
- Sponsor: La Porte County Amateur Radio Club
- Website: https://lpcarc.org/hamfest/

02/22/2025 - Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

- `NEEDS CONFIRMED`

- Location: Dugger, IN
- Address: Dugger Comm. Building
- 840 Hicum St.
- Dugger, IN 47848
- Talk-In: 146.775+ pl 136.5
- Sponsor:

03/22/2025 WVARA Hamfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds

- 6550 N SR 59
- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL
- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
- Website: W9UUU.org

04/26/2025 - NCI HAMFEST

- `NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE!`
- Location: Peru, IN
- Address: Miami County Fairgrounds
- 1029 W 200 N
- Peru, IN 46970
- Talk-In: 147.345+ 131.8PL
- Sponsor:
- Website: https://www.ncihamfest.com/

05/16-18/2025 - Dayton Hamvention

- Location: Dayton, OH
- Address: Greene County Expo Center
- 120 Fairground Rd
- Xenia, OH 45385
- Talk-In: 146.94- 123.0 PL
- Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association
- Website: https://hamvention.org/

07/19/2025 - Auburn Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Auburn, IN
- Address: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
- 1600 Wayne Street
- Auburn, IN 46706
- Talk-In: 147.015+ 141.3pl
- Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
- Website: http://w9ou.org

07/20/2025 - Van Wert Hamfest

- Location: Van Wert, OH
- Address: Van Wert County Fairground
- 1055 S. Washington Street
- Van Wert, OH 45891
- Talk-In: 146.850-
- Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club
- Website: http://w8fy.org

07/26/2025 - East Central Indiana HAMFEST

- Location : Jay County Fairgrounds Portland, IN
- Address: 806 E Votaw St
- Portland, Indiana 47375
- Talk-In: 147.300+ 127.3pl

- Website: ECIHamfest

08/02/2025 - Elkhart East Hamfest

- Location: Elkhart, IN
- Address: Northern Indiana Event Center’s Orthwein Pavilion
- 21565 Executive Pkwy
- Elkhart, IN 46514
- Talk-In: 147.330+ PL 131.8
- Sponsor:
- Website: https://elkharteasthamfest.com/

08/09/2025 - Cincinnati Hamfest

- Location: Owensville, OH
- Address: Clermont County Fairgrounds
- 1000 Locust St.
- Owensville, OH 45160
- Talk-In: 147.345+ PL 123.0
- Sponsor: Milford ARC
- Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org

08/09/2025 - Hendricks County Tailgate Fest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`
- Location: Avon, IN
- Address: Avon United Methodist Church
- 6850 E. US Hwy 36

- Avon, IN 46123
- Talk-In: 145.130- PL88.5
- Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations

08/10/2025 - ARANCI Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Lake Village, IN
- Address: Lake Village Community Center
- 9728 North 300 West
- Lake Village, IN 46349
- Talk-In: 145.330- pl 131.8
- Sponsor: ARANCI

10/11/2025 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest

- Location: Bedford, IN
- Address: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
- 11265 US-50
- Bedford, IN 47421
- Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2
- Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
- Website: https://hoosierhillshamfest.com

10/18/2025 - Shelbyville Tailgate

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Shelbyville, IN
- Address: Shelby County Fairgrounds
- 500 Frank St
- Shelbyville, IN 46176
- Talk-In: 145.48- 88.5pl
- Website: https://brvars.com/

11/15-16/2025 - Ft Wayne Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`
- Location: Fort Wayne, IN
- Address: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
- 4000 Parnell Ave
- Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Talk-In: 146.88-
- Website: http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm

11/29/2025 WVARA Turkeyfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds
- 6550 N SR 59
- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL
- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
- Website: W9UUU.org

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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